

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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35. *GERANIUM PUSILLUM* L.—A NEW RECORD FROM GARHWAL HIMALAYA

For almost a century this pretty little *Geranium* has been known only from Kashmir, the description in the FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA being based upon a collection of Thomson from Kistawar 8000' (2440 m.). On the basis of this plant, Edgeworth and Hooker f. generalised the distribution as Western temperate Himalaya. Subsequently this species has been known from a few other localities, like Srinagar and Baramula, but all, in Kashmir.

The discovery of this species now, further South-east, in the Garhwal Himalaya, at Brahm Khal, Barkot—4000' (1220 m.), in Uttarkashi district, is of interest and support the original generalised distribution. It is very likely that this species will be found in other parts of the North-western Himalayas and to enable its identification, a detailed description is provided.

Geranium pusillum L., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 2: 1144, 1759; Edgeworth and Hooker f. in Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 432, 1875.

Deep-rooted, diffuse, much-branched, annual

herbs, becoming reddish or purple in age. Branches prostrate, very slender, pubescent. Leaves sparsely glandular, reniform to orbicular, deeply 5-9-lobed or partite; segments cuneate, 3-lobed, mid-lobes long, side-lobes very small; petiole 0.8-2 cm long; stipules short. Flowers in axillary peduncles, bluish-purple, small, 6-7 mm in diam.; sepals 5, 2 mm long, glandular-hairy; petals 5, much smaller than the sepals; stamens 10, 5 fertile, c 1 mm long. Fruiting pedicels deflexed. Fruits 0.9-1.3 cm long; young carpels hirsute, on maturity smooth; beak slightly hirsute. Seeds brown, ellipsoid, minutely granulate, c 1.5 cm long, c 1 mm wide.

Flowering and fruiting—April; common in open grassy slopes. *Arora, C. M.* 37825, Brahm Khal, Barkot, 23rd April 1968 (BSD).

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C. M. ARORA
R. PRASAD

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
NORTHERN CIRCLE,
DEHRA DUN,
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